

Committee Meetings

(C ttee t te t eet)

COMPETITION AND INNOVATION IN CREDIT CARD INDUSTRY

C ttee

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions concluded hearings on competition and innovation in the credit card industry at the consumer and network level, after receiving testimony from Philip J. Purcell, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter and Co., Harvey Golub, American Express, and Noah J. Hanft, MasterCard International Incorporated, all of New York, New York; Paul Allen, Visa U.S.A. Inc., Foster City, California; Frank Torres, III, Consumers Union, Washington, D.C.; and David S. Evans, National Economic Research Associates, Inc., Cambridge, Massachusetts.

INTERNET PRIVACY POLICIES

C ttee C e ce Sc e ce t t

Committee held hearings to examine a Federal Trade Commission report of Internet privacy policies issues, including collection and use of consumers' personal information by commercial sites on the World Wide Web, and begin the process of developing consensus about the best way to enable consumers to protect their privacy online, receiving testimony from Robert Pitofsky, Chairman, and Sheila F. Anthony, Mozelle W. Thompson, Orson Swindle, and Thomas B. Leary, all Commissioners, all of the Federal Trade Commission; Jill A. Lesser, America Online, Inc., Christine Varney, Hogan and Hartson, on behalf of the Online Privacy Alliance, and Jerry Berman, Center for Democracy and Technology, all of Washington, D.C.; Jason Catlett, Junkbusters Corporation, Green Brook, New Jersey; and Daniel J. Weitzner, World Wide Web Consortium, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Hearings recessed subject to call.

U.S. NATURAL GAS CONSUMPTION

C ttee e y t e ce Committee held oversight hearings to examine the benefits of natural gas, including its natural abundance, clean-burning attributes, cost and efficiency advantages, and safe and reliable delivery, and the potential for a sharp increase of United States consumption over the next decade, receiving testimony from Jay E. Hakes, Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy; William F. Martin, Washington Policy and Analysis, Washington, D.C.; Robert W. Best, Atmos Energy Corporation, Dallas, Texas, on behalf of the American Gas Association; Laurence M. Downes, New Jersey Resources Cor-

poration, Wall, New Jersey, on behalf of the Distributed Power Coalition of America; and Paul C. Kerkhoven, Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition, Arlington, Virginia.

Hearings recessed subject to call.

SNOWMOBILE PARK PROHIBITION

C ttee e y t e ce Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation concluded oversight hearings to examine the status of planning efforts regarding the use of snowmobiles in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and on the recent decision by the Department of the Interior to prohibit snowmobile activities in other units of the National Park System, after receiving testimony from Donald J. Barry, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; Kim Raap, Wyoming State Parks Department, Cheyenne; Mark Simonich, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Helena; Chris Twoney, Arctic Cat, Inc., Thief River Falls, Minnesota, on behalf of the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association; Sean Smith, Bluewater Network, San Francisco, California; Tim Wade, Park County Commission, Cody, Wyoming, on behalf of the Cooperating Counties in the Winter Use; Michael D. Scott, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Bozeman, Montana, on behalf of the Wilderness Society and the Natural Resources Defense Council; Kevin Collins, National Parks Conservation Association, Washington, D.C.; Teri Manning, Wyoming State Snowmobile Association, Jackson Hole, Wyoming; and William Manson, Grand Rapids, Michigan, on behalf of the American Council of Snowmobile Associations, Inc.

BREAST CANCER SEMIPOSTAL STAMPS

C ttee e e t Subcommittee on International Security, Proliferation and Federal Services concluded hearings to examine the U.S. Postal Service campaign on the issuance of the Breast Cancer Research semipostal stamps, and the future of fund-raising stamps, after receiving testimony from Senators DeWine and Feinstein; Deborah K. Willhite, Senior Vice President, Government Relations and Public Policy, United States Postal Service; and Bernard L. Ungar, Director, Government Business Operations Issues, General Government Division, General Accounting Office.

INTERNET SECURITY AND PRIVACY

C ttee the c y Committee concluded hearings to examine proposed legislation to enhance the protections of the Internet and the critical infrastructure of the United States, related to Internet security and privacy issues, and the development and implementation of public policies that advance these

issues, after receiving testimony from Michael A. Vatis, Director, National Infrastructure Protection Center, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and James K. Robinson, Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, both of the Department of Justice; Bruce J. Heiman, Americans for Computer Privacy, Jeff B. Richards, Internet Alliance, and James X. Dempsey, Center for Democracy and Technology, all of Washington, D.C.; and Richard Pethia, Carnegie Mellon University Software Engineering Institute, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

NOMINATIONS

C ttee the c y Committee concluded hearings on the nominations of Daniel Marcus, of Maryland, to be Associate Attorney General, Department of Justice, Bonnie J. Campbell, of Iowa, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, Jay A. Garcia-Gregory, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico, Beverly B. Martin, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, and Laura Taylor Swain, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf. Mr. Marcus was introduced by Senator Sarbanes and Representative Morella, Ms. Campbell was introduced by Senators Grassley and Harkin, Mr. Garcia-

Gregory was introduced by Resident Commissioner Carlos Romero-Barcelo, Ms. Martin was introduced by Senators Coverdell and Cleland and Representative Chambliss, and Ms. Swain was introduced by Senator Schumer.

GENE THERAPY SAFETY

C ttee e th c t e
Subcommittee on Public Health held hearings to examine safety of patients who participate in experimental gene therapy research and clinical trials, recent revelations regarding lapses in patient safety and compliance with federal regulations, and the need to strengthen our current federal oversight system, receiving testimony from William F. Raub, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Science Policy; Savio L. C. Woo, Mount Sinai School of Medicine Institute of Gene Therapy and Molecular Medicine, New York, New York, on behalf of the American Society of Gene Therapy; Pamela L. Zeitlin, Johns Hopkins Hospital Pediatric General Clinical Research Center, Baltimore, Maryland, on behalf of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation; Lisa Raines, Genzyme Corporation, Cambridge, Massachusetts; and Thomas H. Murray, Hastings Center, Garrison, New York.

Hearings recessed subject to call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Bills Introduced: 36 public bills, H.R. 4540–4575; and 8 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 336–343, were introduced. **Pages H3867–68**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 4402, to amend the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 to improve the use of amounts deposited into the H-1B Nonimmigrant Petitioner Account for demonstration programs and projects to provide technical skills training for occupations for which there is a high demand for skilled workers, amended (H. Rept. 106–642); and

H.R. 1882, to amend provisions of law enacted by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 to ensure full analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules proposed by certain agencies (H. Rept. 106–643, Pt. 1). **Pages H3866–67**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Rev. Alphas Townsend of Bronx, New York. **Page H3815**

Agricultural Risk Protection Act Conference Report: The House agreed to the conference report on H.R. 2559, to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to strengthen the safety net for agricultural producers by providing greater access to more affordable risk management tools and improved protection from production and income loss, to improve the efficiency and integrity of the Federal crop insurance program. **Pages H3817–28**

Agreed to H. Res. 512, the rule that waived points of order against the conference report.

Pages H3816–17

Recess: The House recessed at 11:46 a.m. and reconvened at 11:57 p.m. **Page H3830**

Ban on Partial Birth Abortions: Pursuant to H. Res. 457, the House passed S. 1692, after striking all after the enacting clause and inserting the provisions of H.R. 3660, to amend title 18, United States